



Island Passages *December 2014*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:45am WIN 4pm Meditation	2 12pm Dance Grp 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 7pm Choir rehearsal	3 10am UU Men's Group 10am Quaker Mtg	4 6pm Book Group	5 11:45am TWOG 6pm Family Game Night	6 10am VAC Mtg
7 <i>10am UU Worship</i> 4pm Quaker Worship 5:45pm OWL in sanctuary	8 8:45am WIN 6:30pm PFLAG 6:30pm Witnessing Whiteness	9 10am Women's Group 10am Membership Ctte 1pm Dennis' Office Hours 2pm SRC strg ctte WiFire 7pm Choir rehearsal	10 10am Library Ctte 7pm Worship Ctte	11 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 7:00pm Whidbey Giving Circle	12 11:45am TWOG All day: 3-Cent Stamp, culminating in their CD launch in the evening	13 1pm North End Coffee
14 8:45am Choir <i>10am UU Worship</i> 11:20am Parent Group 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker dinner	15 8:45 WIN 4pm Meditation	16 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	17 10am UU Men's Group 4pm MAGIC	18 1:30pm Quaker Mtg 5pm Finance Ctte 6pm North End Grp	19 11:45am TWOG	20 <i>9am Work Party</i> <i>Please come and help care for our shared home</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
21 <i>10am UU Worship</i> 4pm Quaker Worship 5pm Quaker Business Mtg	22 8:45am WIN	23 10am Women's Group 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	24 <i>4pm Christmas Eve Service</i>	25 	26 11:45am TWOG	27 10:30 South End Coffee
28 <i>10am UU Worship</i> 4pm Quaker Worship 6pm Northend Dine Out 7pm Dances of Universal Peace	29 8:45 WIN	30 1pm Dennis' Office Hours	31			

And always check the most current version of our calendar online at www.uucwi.org

December Worship Services (Sundays at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

Dec 7: *Prophetic Voices: Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Mystic*

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Emerson is described as an essayist, lecturer, poet and philosopher. We know him too as a Unitarian minister who outgrew his own faith and stretched the minds and hearts of his contemporaries. What he said back in the 19th Century still shapes what we do and say as Americans, as Unitarian Universalists and as seekers.

Worship Leader: Gladys Howard

Dec 14: *A Unitarian Christmas*

In the mid-19th Century, Unitarians made meaningful contributions to our understanding and celebration of Christmas. Among them were Clement Moore, Thomas Nast, Charles Follen, Charles Dickens and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. That tradition continues today with the composition of songs and new writings. Come learn some of our UU history and share in readings, songs and stories — all with a Unitarian connection.

Music: UUCWI Chalice Choir

Worship Leader: Mavis Cauffman,
Gladys Howard and Marsha Morgan

Dec 21: *Winter Solstice/ Yule Celebration*

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds

Winter is a time for introspection and quiet contemplation; for self-discovery and self-renewal. On this, the shortest day of the year, we will gather for a time of ritual and reflection on both the darkness that has settled around us, and the light that will soon return to illuminate our paths. What might you be ready to shed or embrace this season?

Music: Linda Good and Laurie Riley

Worship Leaders: Janella Riegel,
Effie Brown and Rick Weiss



4:00 pm Dec 24: *Christmas Eve*

with Rev. Dennis Reynolds and Joann Roomes

All ages are invited to join us in song and story as we fill our sanctuary with candlelight and carols for our annual sunset celebration of the gifts of hope and love that the Christmas Story offers to us all.



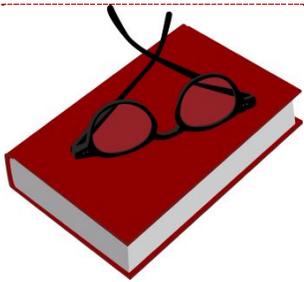
December 28: *Festival of Lights*

The lighted Chalice is the cherished symbol of Unitarian Universalists, and fire is a sacred symbol common to the beliefs and rituals of many cultures. Members of the congregation will share reflections on the use of fire in the traditions of the UU Chalice, Jewish Festival of Hanukkah, African American Kwanzaa Festival, and Hindu Festival of Diwali. Join us as we prepare for the New Year with a candle lighting ceremony affirming our best intentions for our families, our congregation, our country, and our world.

Music: Eileen Soskin

Worship Leaders: Effie Brown and Sara Heath

Community Building the UUCWI Way...



Book Group news:

The book, "Team of Rivals" will take you on a breath-taking journey if you choose to join our group in reading it. The intimacy with which Doris Kearns Goodwin paints pictures of each of the Republican candidates for election to the Presidency in 1860 (which was won by Lincoln) is remarkable. You will get to know some of the hopes and dreams of each man, his temperament, and the style of his family life. The mood of the country comes to life and offers interesting parallels and contrasts with our current culture. It is a large book and that is why we are giving you advance notice that we plan to discuss it at our June 4th meeting. We'll be reading other interesting books prior to that. We meet on the first Thursdays of each month, 7:00 at UUCWI. – Mary Goolsby

December: Potluck and book exchange

January: read anything by Maya Angelou.

February: *Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce

March: *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs tonight* by Alexandra Fuller

April: *End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe

May: *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder

June: *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Update: PHASE II SHARED MINISTRY

The Chalice Circle conveners met on November 13 with members of the Shared Ministry Task Force for a stimulating initial gathering in the Phase II process. The conveners explored their individual meanings of *ministry* and described their experiences of *shared ministry* in our congregation.

Their reflections and feedback will be invaluable to the Task Force in planning gatherings with chalice circles in January and, later, with groups focusing on various areas of our congregational life.

This is an on-going process of gathering reliable feedback both on what is working well and ways we can grow and improve the health and vitality of our community. The Task Force members are Dennis Reynolds, Effie Brown, Gladys Howard, Jean McIntosh, and Toyan Copeland

Parents' Group

Join us for an hour of getting to know other parents in the congregation while we chat about parenting joys & challenges, the spiritual life of children, and share our experiences answering the hard questions kids raise. Visitors, friends & members welcome; no preparation needed. This group meets once a month on Sundays starting **November 30th**. After that we will gather on December 14th and January 18th from 11:20 to 12:30pm. Childcare will be provided, but please bring a lunch or snack for your child. These meetings will be facilitated by Meg Gluckman and Vanessa Kohlhaas - Ginger White



*May you recognize in your life the presence,
Power and light of your soul.*

*May you realize that you are never alone,
That your soul in its brightness and belonging*

*Connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe. – John O'Donohue
from his Blessing for Solitude*

Engaging our Children and Youth...



OWL is changing lives...

Our Whole Lives, UUA's Sexuality Education curriculum for Grades 7 - 9, is underway! Co-facilitators Gene Berg and Ruth Richards and five thoughtful and engaged teens are journeying through the curriculum, learning a lot, and making friendships in a climate of openness, humor and respect. We have been doing some fun, and sometimes difficult, stuff - examining our values, role-playing, building models of biological systems, exploring language and meaning, dissecting cultural messages, and eating pizza. Our students are curious, articulate in voice or writing, and so honest that we are moved by their bravery. They are also teaching us that their generation is adaptable and open-minded. Every week, we all build trust. And, we hope they are gaining courage and self-confidence to treat this subject as they would any other - with frankness, self-knowledge and acceptance. For, why should they not believe themselves able to do this?

Our Whole Lives' overall goal is to create a positive and comprehensive lifespan educational program that helps participants gain the knowledge, values, and skills to lead sexually healthy, responsible lives. To that end, the OWL series includes curricula for grades K-1, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, and adults. We hope this will be the auspicious start of a continuing program at UUCWI to address the issues around sexuality that arise at any age. You are invited to talk with Gene and Ruth about the program's values and assumptions.

This TED talk is one of our favorite resources in alignment with the OWL materials, to give you a sense of the tone of our curriculum. http://www.ted.com/talks/al_vernacchio_sex_needs_a_new_metaphor_here_s_one

We are grateful to the UUCWI community for its support of this essential program. – Ginger White

Join the Justicemakers! Starting Sunday November 23rd

Would you like to learn more about how to make change in the world? Then join us and become a Justicemaker!

Starting on November the 23rd, RE and the Social Responsibility Committee will partner for the next six Sundays during service to offer a Justicemakers class for youth ages 10 and up. We will be using the "Heeding the Call" curriculum from the UUA. Cheryl Lawrence and Lori Taylor will teach the first three classes on the Call to Awareness. Jean McIntosh (and a parent volunteer) will be teaching the next three classes on the Call of our UU Heritage.

This is a fun and meaningful program for our youth and gives them the tools they need to make change in the world. We hope you will heed the call and have your child join us for the next six Sundays. If this is successful, we would like to offer it through the entire church year.

For more information about the program contact Lori Taylor at 831-402-9321 or ltaylor@me.com or. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ginger White at re_dir@uucwi.org

Gene's puzzler:

- Place the integers 1 to 9 into a 3x3 grid so the sum of every row is 15 and the sum of every column is 15.
- (Challenge) Place the integers 1-16 in a 4x4 grid so that the sum of every row and column is 34.
- If you place the integers 1,2,3,...,49 in a 7x7 grid so that the sum of every row and column is the same, what is that sum?

Post your answers to Gene Berg at gaberg678@gmail.com

From the Minister's Corner...

Dennis' Holiday Musings

As I contemplate the holiday season that is now upon us seemingly separate threads of thought twist together in my mind.

As I write this, my mother is in a rehabilitation facility in Puyallup. She is recovering from surgery after a fall and broken hip. The hospital where she had the surgery to reconstruct her hip was Good Samaritan, the very place where I trained and then worked as a staff chaplain. When I visited her memories of that earlier time of deep personal growth intertwined with my concern for my mom.

As a chaplain at "Good Sam" I was called to be present to the hard times that families face when their loved ones are hospitalized. More recently I was "up close and personally" enmeshed in the mixture of fear and hope, anxiety and acceptance that arise at such times.

I felt blessed that my mom was supported by a solid network of family. I also asked my former chaplain colleagues to pay a visit. Though she will not be present at this year's family feast we all are fed by the love we share and we hope she will be back fully with us in the New Year.

Last week I received an email from Earth Ministry, the interfaith environmental advocacy organization with which UUCWI is affiliated as a Greening Congregation, informing all of its members that the Vietnamese Zen Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hahn was hospitalized after a brain hemorrhage. Earth Ministry shared in the email one of my favorite quotes from that amazing teacher.

"People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on Earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child - our own two eyes. All is a miracle."

I and countless others have been fed well by the loving sage wisdom of that great teacher. This week, during our time of cold clear days, I was reminded of the truth of his words.

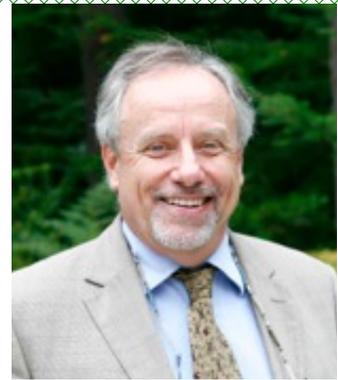
My dog Sadie and I were on a sunset jog on Double Bluff Beach. As we neared the point the light was glistening on the water and sun was beginning to tuck behind the Olympics. I was tiring and was about to turn back when I heard a high-pitched sound. I looked up to discover that the eagles that nest nearby had decided to come out to the beach to savor the twilight time. They did not appear to be hunting food as I have seen them do on other beach runs, but just floated on the breeze and softly settled down on the sand.

One pair landed on the beach in front of us while another duo soared just above us. My waning energy was renewed and we continued on past the majestic watching birds on our way to the end of the point and the broader vista.

As we move into the hectic joy of the holiday season, as the pressure to shop for just the right gifts and to prepare the perfect menus looms large, I am reminded once again that indeed the most important things in life are not *things*. People, both family and community, and our connection to the natural world are the sweet gifts that truly feed us.

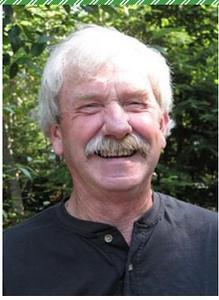
May the warm connections with family, friends, and community of life nurture, sustain, and satisfy us all during this season of sunsets and celebrations and new beginnings.

Happy Holidays!



Pastoral Support The December Pastoral Associates Coordinator is Sara Heath. And yes, you remember correctly that she was the point person in November. If you have need of a visit or an ear, please contact her at sarah1344@comcast.net or at 360-675-7487 or Rev Dennis at minister@uucwi.org

From our Leadership...



The President's Pen

Your UUCWI Board of Trustees worked on several issues at its recent meeting, and I want you to know what these good folks are doing on your behalf.

We discussed the success of the recent auction where we nearly doubled the budgeted target amount. Kudos to Vice President Libby Roberts for her leadership in making this auction by far the most financially successful we have had. And also kudos to a small army of volunteers who pitched in on both planning and execution. We were particularly delighted at the number of new volunteers who stepped up and did such cheerful and productive work. Any recurrent event needs new blood to stay fresh and grow. Our heartfelt gratitude to all of those folks.

Libby has scheduled a formal debriefing meeting with the auction committee members for December 5th, so there will be more information available after that about what worked particularly well and what we may wish to improve. If you have feedback for the committee you would like to share, please contact Libby before the 5th.

UUCWI has had great success with its recent fundraisers, both auction and our wonderful concert series, earning roughly \$10,000 more than budgeted targets. This success creates opportunities to fund needs that we have been long deferred and possibly to build our reserves for future needs. High on the list of major deferred projects are enhanced parking lot lighting and black-out curtains for the sanctuary. We have also long-deferred a request for additional shelving from the Library Committee. The Board has been working with the Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee and Toyon (as Big Picture Coordinator) to see how we can complete these and other worthy projects that have been deferred. We plan to hold an informational meeting for the congregation in January to give you details, and we'll let you know when that meeting is scheduled.

Another financial issue that we are working is education for the congregation about the process for seeking Board approval for *capital* projects. If a need has been funded in the budget, the appropriate committee chair must approve any expenditures and plans. The committee chairs will keep the board apprised of work done by their committees. If the project is not funded by the budget, a proposal giving the rationale and proposed funding should be submitted to the Board. This procedure allows us to address proposals within the larger context of all the capital projects and make timely decisions. If you or your committee has any questions about a contemplated proposal, let us know so we can give you help.

Four members of the congregation who have been working on the Women's Retreats held each August for the last three years at Fort Ebey State Park have asked the Board to make this retreat an *official* annual event of UUCWI. A thorough and thoughtful proposal was submitted to the Board by Lois Anderson, Joan Gerteis, May-Britt Kron, and Christi Shaffer, and the Board enthusiastically agreed that this retreat should be given official status and support. The Women's Retreat is an excellent example of the kind of community-building activity which meets an important need at UUCWI. We thank these women for their commitment.

John Long, president on behalf of Board Members Frank Allen, Mary Goolsby, Gladys Howard, Charlie Knutilla, Sara Richards, and Libby Roberts

"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope."

-- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Introducing Sarah Richards, member of the Board of Trustees...

In 1984 as I was leaving Ithaca, NY with my little family I asked a friend, who kept telling me about the fun things she did with her congregation, "What church do you belong to?" Unitarian Universalist was her answer. My grandfather forbade his children to darken the doorway of a church (you can guess the environment in which I was raised) so to consider going to a church was a radical concept. Upon arriving that year in Corvallis, OR, I found the UU congregation and I started attending. However, I did not become a member until after I discovered and attended Eliot Institute and was introduced to the wider UU family that I found vibrant and fascinating.

In Ithaca I had found a job as a computer programmer at the NY State College of Veterinary Medicine thanks to a liberal arts degree. But in Corvallis the lack of a computer science degree meant I was unemployable in computer jobs. I returned to academics and earned a Master's Degree in Counseling and spent a decade providing community mental health counseling. My second husband, Al, and I moved to Whidbey Island in 1998 and immediately joined the then much smaller congregation here. Al was a landscape architect, a skill that was very useful when we first explored and then purchased this property that our church is now on. We eventually divorced and I put my energy into my lavender farm. Over the last 5 or 6 years the lavender business has demanded most of my attention and energy and I have not been as involved in UU activities as in earlier years. The Northenders has been important to me because it has allowed me to keep a connection and build affectionate relationships with UUs even though on Sundays my shadow seldom comes south.

While in Corvallis I led a meditation group and through that and a few other non-Sunday group activities I realized how important small groups are to the vibrant life of a congregation. It is good that groups are doing well here! I have served my two congregations in various ways, including a few terms on the boards. My son was raised in the Corvallis UU children's program. I am happy and relieved that no matter where I am in the world I can find kindred spirits at a UU congregation.



Advice from a Tree - Ilan Shamir

"Dear Friend,

Stand Tall and Proud

Sink your roots deeply into the Earth

Reflect the light of a greater source.

Think long term.

Go out on a limb.

Remember your place among all living beings.

Embrace with joy the changing seasons

For each yields its own abundance

The Energy and Birth of Spring

The Growth and Contentment of Summer

The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall

The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter.

Feel the wind and the sun

And delight in their presence.

Look up at the moon that shines down upon you

And the mystery of the stars at night.

Seek nourishment from the good things in life.

Simple pleasures

Earth, fresh air, light.

Be content with your natural beauty.

Drink plenty of water

Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes

Be flexible

Remember your roots

Enjoy the view!

Social Responsibility Council News

SRC...Be In the Know!

I-594 passed! UUCWI, in partnership with many faith communities and organizations, endorsed Washington State Initiative 594. Our support was visible through the placards by the highway. The positive action taken by the voters was no small feat given the huge amounts of money aimed at defeating the initiative. Thanks for your support and engagement! Together, we prevailed!

SRC Partners with Religious Exploration. Starting on November 23rd, RE and the Social Responsibility Council will partner for the next six Sundays to offer a *Justicemakers* class for youth ages 10 and up, using the "Heeding the Call" curriculum from the UUA. Cheryl Lawrence and Lori Taylor will teach the first three classes on the Call to Awareness. Jean McIntosh (and a parent volunteer) will be teaching the next three classes on the *Call of our UU Heritage*. This is a fun and meaningful program for our youth and gives them the tools they need to make change in the world.

Let Justice Roll! What is the meaning of "justice?" What are the interconnections among social, economic, and environmental justice? How can we support justice in the everyday ways we live our lives? In January, the SRC will sponsor an open forum to address these questions, facilitated by community leaders and advocates. Watch the e-news and plan to join us at the forum!

Persistent and Together. UU President Peter Morales recently addressed what many of us may feel these days—an impatience that progress towards realizing our UU Principles might come more quickly and enfold more of the earth and its inhabitants. He asks us to take the long view, together:

Alone, we will get exhausted and discouraged. Alone, we will lose hope. Alone, we feel powerless...The fact that evil is persistent and resourceful is why we need life-affirming communities like our UU congregations...Together we give one another strength. Together we become strong. Together, we help bend the long arc of the universe toward justice and compassion.

On behalf of the Social Responsibility Council - Jean McIntosh

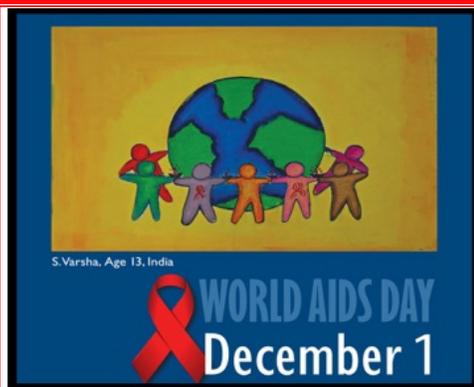
How do I talk with my conservative friends about climate change?

This article from New Yorker magazine was shared recently with SRC members and we found it compelling. If you have friends who just do not seem to understand your perspective on climate change, perhaps all that is required is a simple re-linguaging. After all, everyone – conservative or liberal – cares about the future of our children. As Ken Merrell has frequently counseled us, sometimes the only barrier to communication is our choice of words. Maybe this will inspire you to try again.— Jean McIntosh

<http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2014/09/how-to-convince-conservatives-on-climate-change.html>

For our dedicated offering in
October we collected \$242
for Tilth
and in November we
collected \$356 for the
Whidbey Veteran's
Resource Center.

*Thank you for your
generosity, UUCWI!*



A Time of Reflection, Remembrance & Renewal
December 1st at Langley United Methodist Church (LUMC),
3rd & Anthes

6-7 PM Interfaith Service led by Rev. Dennis Reynolds
7-9 PM HBO Award Winning Film "The Normal Heart"

Sponsors: LUMC Reconciling Committee, PFLAG, &
UUCWI

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Whidbey Island**

2014 - 2015 Board of Trustees

John Long, President
Libby Roberts, Vice President
Charlie Knutla, Treasurer
Gladys Howard, Secretary
Frank Allen, Trustee
Mary Goolsby, Trustee
Sarah Richards, Trustee

If you wish to contact any of the Board members,
call UUCWI voice mail at 360-321-8656.

Minister: Dennis Reynolds 541-517-7325

minister@uucwi.org

Chaplain: Sally Elder 360-675-3314

chaplain@uucwi.org

Our minister and chaplain are available for rites of
passage ceremonies (including ceremonies of
commitment or union) and pastoral visits.

Administrator: Mavis Cauffman

admin@uucwi.org

Director of Religious Exploration: Ginger White

re_dir@uucwi.org

Newsletter Information:

News, announcements, events, and other items of
interest to members of the congregation should be
submitted in writing by the 20th of each month to
editor, Terra Anderson at newsletter@uucwi.org.
Suggestions for articles and information of interest
to the whole congregation are encouraged.

Items submitted after press time will appear in the
following month's newsletter if appropriate.

Communications Committee:

Terra Anderson, Newsletter Editor

Mavis Cauffman, Congregational Administrator

Charlie Knutla, Website Manager:

wwg_chair@uucwi.org

UUCWI's website: www.uucwi.org

"Like" us on Facebook ... Search for Whidbey

Unitarian or UUCWI

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF WHIDBEY ISLAND**

P.O. Box 1076 Freeland, WA 98249
360-321-8656 uucwi.org